

## **Minutes**

### **Board of County Commissioners Hyde County**

**April 21, 2008**

Chairman Charles Spencer called the Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 21, 2008 in the Multi-Use Room in the Government Center, Swan Quarter, NC. The following members were present: Alice Armstrong, Gene Ballance, Barry Swindell, and Charles Spencer. Also present were Interim County Manager Carl Classen; County Attorney Sid Hassell; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and members of the public. Commissioner Davis was unable to attend.

Following a pledge of allegiance to the flag and opening prayer by Mr. Swindell the meeting was called to order.

#### **Agenda:**

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the April 21, 2008 meeting Revised Agenda as presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Swindell moved to accept the Agenda with Item VII. Closed Session not necessary. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – none; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

#### **Consideration of Minutes:**

Chairman Spencer asked for approval of the draft April 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Interim County Manager Carl Classen asked that the minutes be laid over to the May 5, 2008 meeting.

#### **Public Hearing:**

Commissioner Armstrong moved to open a public hearing regarding the proposed Mattamuskeet EMS Station. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – none; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

EMS Director David Warren presented information on a Mattamuskeet EMS building. PowerPoint presentation of currently proposed EMS changes was given and a letter of support from NC Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Emergency Medical Services was read by Mr. Warren.

Dr. Charles Boyette, Hyde County EMS Medical Director for the past 43 years, spoke of the history of the Hyde EMS. In the 1960's, Williamson Funeral Home also provided ambulance service to the County. In the 1970's, Hyde County Rescue was provided by volunteers. In the 1980's, Hyde EMS staff received \$100 per month and had two units with an average response time of 45 minutes. In the 1990's, Hyde EMS had three units and a 20 member squad. Through the Katie B. Reynolds Grant, Hyde EMS was able to purchase equipment needed. In 1995 Ocracoke began providing EMS service. Ponzer community was contracted to Belhaven during this time. In the 2000's Hyde EMS had four units and Ocracoke had two. Dr. Boyette noted many improvements have occurred since 1995.

Dr. Boyette told attendees that it is time for the next step for Hyde EMS. He believes Hyde County has the opportunity to improve its EMS service by upgrading to EMT-Paramedic. This will provide uniform service to all Hyde County citizens, says Dr. Boyette.

Carolyn Hughes, Beaufort County Community College Department of Continuing Education – supports upgrading Hyde EMS staff to Paramedic level and offered training within Hyde County.

Franklin Swindell, Engelhard - questions response time from Mattamuskeet and recommends a station in Engelhard.

Jeffrey Stotesberry, Swan Quarter – reported he had a heart attack on March 16, 2008 and stated that if he had been at home at the time he would not have survived. Mr. Stotesberry, Chief

of Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department said paramedic level services are life saving in situations such as his.

Mike Spruill, Dare County – said paramedics save lives before EMS arrives. Because the patient is getting the care needed as soon as a paramedic arrives backtracking does not occur. Mr. Spruill is a part-time employee of Hyde EMS.

Doris Weston, Engelhard – cannot foresee setting up at Mattamuskeet. She asks why take EMS out of Engelhard.

David Warren, Hyde EMS Director - stated that one community had not been chosen over another. Mattamuskeet is a central location.

David Fletcher, Lake Landing – asked why current EMTs pick up their partner. He believes they should drive to the scene to meet their partner. Mr. Fletcher wants trained EMTs in the County who will serve as first responders.

Franklin Swindell, Engelhard – advocates the system as is. He recommended not messing with a system that works.

Leon Bryant, Engelhard – reminded everyone that 50% of calls come from Engelhard. He agrees we need more EMTs and stated Engelhard has 6 or 7 EMTs who could be first responders. Mr. Bryant questions whether maintenance costs will increase with a central station and recommends building closer to Engelhard. If EMTs train to become paramedics the County should pay them accordingly.

Art Keeney, Lake Landing - spoke as a private citizen (not corporate) noting that this proposal was not too expensive. Mr. Keeney expressed support of the proposal and asked the commissioners to take the “long view” to benefit the citizens of Hyde County not just looking at the four year term they serve.

Leon Bryant, Engelhard – stated the County needs to be ready with funds to implement the proposal.

Art Keeney, Lake Landing – is a member of the Engelhard Medical Center Board and reports the new facility will better serve Engelhard and surrounding communities. Mr. Keeney is also a member of Pungo District Hospital Board and Beaufort County Community College Board. He stated that grant money can be found for this type project.

Commissioner Charles Spencer asked Mr. Warren if Hyde County EMS trucks qualify for transport service. Mr. Warren reported that all Hyde EMS trucks would qualify and that this would be a good source of revenue in the future.

Alex Stallons, Chowan County – stated he is an EMT currently working for a medical transport company who has applied to work for Hyde County EMS. Mr. Stallons asks everyone to remember something is better than nothing. He recommended citizens to support changes proposed for the EMS system.

Darlene Berry, Senior Center Director – stated that EMS has her full support and welcomes the new EMS station as a neighbor to the Center. Ms. Berry also believes the new station would be an asset to residents of the western part of Hyde County.

Wayne Pugh, President and Assistant Chief, Ponzer Volunteer Fire and Rescue – stated the Fire Department supports the proposed central station and that it would be an injustice to the county to not go forward with the proposed changes.

Sharon Spencer, Fairfield – completed EMT training several years ago. Ms. Spencer asked if the fire departments are on board for the proposed changes and stated if EMT’s advance to paramedic level they should be paid accordingly.

Wayne Pugh, Assistant Chief – stated that he and Johnny Stotesberry, Chief of Ponzer Volunteer Fire and Rescue support the proposed EMS changes.

Jeffrey Stotesberry, Chief of Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department – stated that he is on board with full support of the proposed EMS changes.

David Warren, EMS Director – stated that Matt Halla, Chief of Engelhard Volunteer Fire Department also supports the proposed EMS changes.

Patricia Cahoon, Swan Quarter – former Hyde EMS employee believes EMTs should meet the ambulance at the scene as was done in the past.

David Fletcher, Lake Landing – asked why the EMTs couldn't meet at the scene as do the volunteer firemen.

David Warren, EMS Director – stated the County has no supervisory control to implement or enforce EMTs driving personal vehicles to the scene.

Patricia Cahoon, Swan Quarter – stated that when she was an EMS employee she paid personal vehicle expenses incurred.

Hearing no further public discussion, Mr. Swindell moved to close public hearing and to follow up during the May 5, 2008 Commissioners meeting. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – none; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

At 9:20 PM after a five minute recess the meeting reconvened in the Multi-Use Room.

#### Public Comments:

Chairman Spencer called for comments from the public.

Charles and Florence Reber presented a list of repairs that need to be done to their home at 370 Lazy Lane in Engelhard post elevation. Interim County Manager Carl Classen will follow up with Mr. and Mrs. Reber.

#### Special Presentation:

##### Report on Old Courthouse Project – Objective A – Cahoon & Kasten

Ben Cahoon of Cahoon & Kasten Architects presented to the Board report on Objective A for the Old Courthouse Project. Drawings representing various development options were reviewed with the Board and an Existing Condition Analysis was provided to the Board.

Commissioner Swindell moved to accept report on Objective A. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

#### Appointments:

Mr. Classen reported to the Board that Mr. Jay Ethridge, Hyde County ABC Board has requested Commissioners Spencer and Davis be dismissed from the ABC Board allowing new members to be appointed to include a representative from Ocracoke. No action was taken.

#### Other Matters:

##### Budget Revisions and Transfers:

Interim County Manager Carl Classen reviewed with the Board budget revision/transfer requests from various departments. Commissioner Swindell moved to approve all budget amendments and revisions and to direct the County Manager to prepare and the Chairman to execute Budget Amendment Ordinance reflecting these approved budget amendments and revisions. Commissioner Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

Mr. Classen also reviewed with the Board position vacancies in the DSS (2), Maintenance (1), Water (1) and Health (1) departments. Commissioner Swindell moved to approve filling the five vacancies as presented. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

*CLERK'S NOTE: A Copy of the "Budget Ordinance Amendment" is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.*

#### The Greater Hyde County Chamber of Commerce:

Chamber President Carolyn Williford presented the annual report for the Chamber. A motion to continue funding for the Chamber of Commerce was withdrawn by Commissioner Armstrong. Hearing no objection, Chairman Spencer directed that the \$30,000 annual funding be included in the proposed FY08-2009 budget.

#### Contract for Audit of Hyde County – Pittard Perry & Crone:

Interim County Manager Carl Classen presented to the Board a Contract for Audit of Hyde County from Pittard Perry & Crone for FY2007-08 in the amount of \$26,200. Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the contract. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

#### Contract for Holland Consulting Planners, Inc. to Administer the FY07 CDBG-SBEA Grant Program:

Holland Consulting Planners, Inc. was approved to administer the FY07 CDBG Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance (SBEA) Grant Program at the April 7, 2008 Hyde County Board of Commissioners meeting. A Contract has been received by the County to allow administrative services to begin.

Commissioner Swindell moved to approve and execute the Contract with Holland Consulting Planners, Inc. for administering the FY07 CDBG Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance (SBEA) Grant Program. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

#### Fairfield Hunting:

Commissioner Swindell moved to delay discussion regarding extending Fairfield hunting days on the Allen Ballance property to allow time for further research and follow up at the May 5, 2008 Commissioners meeting. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

#### Solid Waste Plan – Ocracoke:

Hearing no direction, Chairman Spencer stated Commissioner Ballance was authorized to hold a public input meeting on Ocracoke on behalf of the Board to receive public comments regarding a proposed solid waste plan for Ocracoke residents.

#### Solid Waste Fee – Paul and Melinda Boyd:

Paul and Melinda Boyd (residents of western Hyde County) report never receiving trash pick up services provided by the County.

After discussion, Commissioner Swindell moved to suspend current solid waste fees for 2007 and 2008. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

#### Boards and Committees:

Joint School Facilities Committee – Commissioner Ballance and Spencer reported that the Committee met April 21, 2008 at 4:00 PM in the Mattamuskeet and Ocracoke School Information Highway Rooms.

#### County Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Armstrong requested annual fees be paid to the Southern Albemarle Association. Ms. Armstrong informed the Board that the Albemarle Commission would like a copy of the Hyde County Classification and Pay Study.

Commissioner Ballance met with Health Director Wesley Smith to discuss home health services for Ocracoke. Mr. Ballance informed the Board that progress continues.

No other Board or Committee reports were offered so Chairman Spencer continued with the Agenda.

County Manager's Report:

Classification and Pay Study: Mr. Classen reported that salary changes made are being implemented.

ORV Litigation: Hyde County has tentatively reached a joint settlement with Dare County to accept the settlement. Commissioner Swindell moved to approve the tentative settlement. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

After recommendation from Interim County Manager Carl Classen, Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve reimbursement for the two Hyde County representatives on the ORV Negotiation Rule Making Committee in accord with County Travel Reimbursement Policy. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting - Davis.

Budget Presentation: scheduled for May 21, 2008.

Government Center and Public Safety Center: close-out is in progress. Mr. Spencer and Sheriff Mason plan to meet with surrounding counties to develop a use plan for the Public Safety Center.

Swan Quarter Dike – Phase XI: final payment has been made. Mr. Classen is working with NRCS to begin Phase XII of the dike project.

Mattamuskeet Lodge Sewer Project: is rapidly moving forward.

Engelhard Water Treatment Plant: Mr. Classen reported completion of the Plant is expected by the end of 2009.

Golden LEAF Foundation: Mr. Classen and County Planner Alice Keeney will attend a meeting with the Foundation in Pictolus on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Stormwater Regulations: Mr. Classen will attend a stormwater regulations meeting in Raleigh on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. The new stormwater rules will be in effect on May 1, 2008.

Board of Equalization and Review:

Commissioner Swindell moved to recess the regular meeting and to reconvene the recessed Board of Equalization and Review meeting. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – none; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:30 PM.

There being no further matters to come before the Commissioners, Mr. Swindell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – none; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lois Stotesberry, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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Charles Spencer, Chairman  
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – “Budget Ordinance Amendment”